

25X1

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT

25X1

COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 31 Jul 53

SUBJECT Soviet Mining Exploration and Exploitation Procedure

NO. OF PAGES 3

PLACE
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)DATE
ACQUIRED BY SOURCESUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1

DATE OF INFORMATION

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1

1. The USSR organization for geological exploration, whose function was location of resources, was the State Geological Exploration Administration (Gosudarstvennaya Geologicheskaya Razvedka -- GosGeologo-Razvedka).

25X1

The seat of the State Geological Exploration Administration was in Moscow; it had subordinate agencies, referred to as "geologo razvedka", in all republics and autonomous oblasts.

2. Decisions affecting the geological exploration of all areas were made in Moscow; when they had been made, geological exploration teams were sent into the field. The field geological exploration teams conducted the following types of exploration, always in the sequence stated below:

- a. Geological Exploration "C", or preparatory exploration (predvaritel'naya razvedka) consisting in general of reconnoitering an area on the basis of existing maps, character of terrain, types of soil, etc. Analysis of existing minerals and other natural resources found in the area was done at this stage, but no research drilling. The time authorized for this exploration by the geological manual was not to exceed two weeks.

25X1

---SECRET---

SECURITY INFORMATION

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-2-

- b. Geological Exploration "B", or survey exploration (izyskatel'naya razvedka) immediately followed Exploration "C". This was expanded exploration, where a number of drillings for sample minerals were made. These drillings were normally made in the form of a chess board covering an area with drills at 5 - 10 km. intervals. The time authorized for Exploration "B" was up to two months.
- c. Geological Exploration "AB" or detailed exploration (detal'naya razvedka) immediately followed the completed Exploration "B". The task in this stage was to determine the exact location, position, form, and quantities of minerals or any other natural resources discovered in stages "C" and "B". Many drillings were made in this stage for the purpose of determining, with 90% accuracy, the quantities of minerals discovered in an area. There was no exact time period prescribed by the geological manual for exploration "AB". The term used by the manual was "as required", (po nadobnosti). Depending on local conditions, this stage usually took 6 - 12 months.
- d. Geological Exploration "A" or exploitation exploration (ekspluatatsionnaya razvedka). This stage was not conducted before the decision for exploitation had been made. It was carried out practically immediately before exploitation and during the exploitation period. The aim in this stage was to determine, with 100% accuracy, the quantities of minerals available to be exploited and to decide on the best method of exploitation. Exploration "A" continued for as long as exploitation was under way.
3. The "C", "B", and "AB" stages of geological exploration were not concerned with exploitation at all. Their sole task was geological exploration. On the other hand, geological exploration "A" was closely allied with exploitation. This was the basic difference between the first three and the fourth stages.
4. The report of results of geological exploration "AB", together with all prepared materials, were forwarded through official channels to the republic and All-union mining authorities [redacted] who would make a study and arrive at a decision on exploitation. The time required to complete this was usually 6 - 12 months. In especially urgent cases it might have taken less than six months.
5. When a decision for exploitation had been made, financial means for the project were secured and expert personnel were appointed by responsible mining authorities. The entire matter was then referred to the responsible oblast mining inspectorate (Oblastnaya Gorno-Tekhnicheskaya Inspektsiya), which, on the basis of material collected through exploration stages "C", "B", and "AB", would start preparation of the project. The responsible oblast mining inspectorate did not actually prepare the project; it was prepared under the supervision of this inspectorate by the technical personnel who had been appointed for the exploitation of the project. Normally the project was prepared in stages, in order not to delay the start of exploitation. This meant that the mining project was not prepared right away for full-scale exploitation, but only for its initial phase. The average time needed for this work was three to six months. Normally geological exploration "A" went on simultaneously with the preparation of the exploitation project. This would mean that:
- a. Geological exploration "C", "B", and "AB", i.e., exploration from the beginning until the time when sufficient material had been obtained for a decision on exploitation to be made, normally required from 8 - 13 months;

25X1
25X1

SECRET

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-3-

- b. From the moment exploration "AB" was completed to the date the decision for priority exploitation was made, the time lapse was normally 6 - 12 months;
- c. The period elapsing between the decision to exploit and the beginning of actual exploitation was normally three to six months. Consequently the time that elapsed from the moment geological research had started to the beginning of exploitation was normally from 1½ to 3 years.

6.

Supervision of exploitation
of the oblast mining inspectorate.

was the responsibility

25X1

- 7. In underdeveloped areas the geological exploration teams were followed by these expert teams:
 - a. Communications team: which had the task of making surveys and preparing plans for the communications network necessary to the industrialization of the area;
 - b. Medical team: which made studies of sanitation (including drinking water) and hygienic conditions in the area;
 - c. Agriculture team: specialists who made a study of the flora of an area and prepared a project for the agricultural exploitation of the area;
 - d. Combined industrial team: experts who conducted research for the future industrialization of the area and exploitation of its natural resources.

SECRET